division, except for its high point of origin, in the same (posterior) position as that ordinarily occupied by the sterile segment and appearing to have taken its place.

3. Sterilization of the fertile segment also seems to be rare in Botrychium; but Prof. Chrysler records cases in *B. neglectum* (*B. ramosum*), *B. silaifolium* (*B. ternatum*, var. *intermedium*), and *B. obliquum*.

The significance of the phenomena in classes 2 and 3 would seem to be merely the illustration of the rather ready interchangeability of the fertile and sterile condition in the fronds of these and other dimorphic ferns.

It is evident from all this that there is more to be found out concerning abnormalities in Botrychium and that they offer a wider field for observation than most of us have, probably, supposed. Prof. Chrysler, whose address is Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., would no doubt be glad to receive specimens of any of the forms enumerated above, so that he may carry further his investigation of their vascular systems. Fresh specimens are preferable for dissection; but well pressed ones can be used, and a pressed specimen in good condition is vastly better than a once fresh one which arrives hopelessly withered or decayed.[1]—C. A. W.

A scientific survey of the possessions of the United States in the West Indies—Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands—is in course of publication by the New York Academy of Sciences. It includes, of course, a flora; the treatment of the fernworts in this flora is by Dr. Maxon and has been reprinted in a separate, and handy, pamphlet. As was to be expected, it gives a careful, thorough and expert handling of current systematic knowledge of the pteridophyta of the region. There are excellent keys

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[1] Chrysler, M. A. Abnormalities in Botrychium and certain other ferns. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club **53**: 279–288, pl. 9. May, 1926.

to families, genera, and species, detailed descriptions of each species, synonymy, and statements of ranges outside of the territory covered by the flora. In the matter of "splitting" species, Dr. Maxon is wisely conservative, especially in critical groups which have not received recent monographic study. The work is not only a valuable contribution to science; though it is, of course, not a "popular" treatise in the sense of avoiding technical terms and being deliberately written down to an elementary level, it should be also a welcome companion to fern lovers who may visit the islands. It may be purchased from the Secretary of the New York Academy of Sciences, 77th St. and Central Park West, New York City, for $2.00.[1]

FERNS OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT.—*Polypodium virginianum*, f. *cambricoides* (so far as east-American specimens are concerned, the same plant as that called in the fern-books, *P. vulgare*, var. *cambricum*; see this JOURNAL **14**: 6 and 60, 1924) is a rarity which anyone may well be pleased to find. One of the first reported stations for it in the northeastern states is that found by the late Prof. Underwood in Cornwall, Conn. A letter from our member, Mrs. E. M. Foote, who spends her summers in that town, gives interesting particulars of the present status of this fern there.

"I had heard," she writes, "that Prof. Underwood found the var. *cambricum* of the *Polypodium vulgare* on Mohawk Mt., four or five miles from here, some twenty years ago, so I was on the lookout for it for many years. About five years ago a man who knew *nothing* of ferns came to me and pulling a small, wet newspaper package out of his pocket, said: 'Here—you like ferns—what's

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[1] Maxon, W. R. Pteridophyta; in Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Vol. 6, Part 3. New York, 1926.